

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

IN SEARCH OF A CURE: SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR DIABETES RESEARCH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to increase funding for diabetes and support a \$1 billion diabetes research budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). I ask that Congress make the quest for a cure for diabetes a top national priority—there can be no cure without a significant increase in funding.

Diabetes has been called the “epidemic of our time” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 1995, 135 million cases of diabetes were reported worldwide, and that is expected to exceed 300 million by 2025.

Diabetes is a debilitating and deadly disease: it affects 16 million Americans; it kills one American every three minutes; it is the leading cause of new adult blindness, kidney failure, and non-traumatic amputations; and it is a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Diabetes disproportionately affects young children, older Americans, and members of minority populations. In addition, expenditures for the treatment of diabetes are in excess of \$100 billion and individuals with diabetes account for one in four Medicare dollars.

In the past, Congress has strongly supported providing the necessary resources to find a cure for diabetes, but funding has often fallen short of desired expectations. I strongly support the findings in the Diabetes Research Working Group’s (DRWG) report, which has laid out a comprehensive plan for utilizing increased resources. The report indicates that diabetes research is significantly underfunded when compared to the burden of the disease and the scientific opportunities in the field.

I ask my colleagues to join me in substantially increasing funding for diabetes research. Let us put this terrible disease on the path to a cure. If we act now, diabetes will never again be the burden on society that it is today.

HONORING CLARA MCKINNEY REDDELL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize an outstanding citizen of the Fourth District of Texas, Clara McKinney Reddell. Mrs. Reddell was selected by the Heritage Guild of Collin County last year to be the Guest of Honor at “Celebrate the Century”, and she previously was

nominated for the Sesquicentennial Award at the McKinney Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

Mrs. Reddell is the great-great-granddaughter of Collin McKinney and the great-granddaughter of J.B. Wilmeth. Both of these men were integral in the development of their community, and Mrs. Reddell has dedicated her life to preserving the memories of the pioneers of McKinney and Collin County. Not only has she preserved the history of her community, she also has strived to keep them at the forefront of the community’s consciousness. This is evidenced by her authorship of a widely circulated pamphlet entitled “McKinney and Collin County” which chronicles the history of the city, the county, and her namesake. Her latest endeavor to keep the history of this area alive is to spearhead a campaign to name the new public high school after J.B. Wilmeth. Mr. Wilmeth opened the first free school in the county in his own home in 1848.

Mrs. Reddell’s contributions to her community have been enormous. In 1941, Mrs. Reddell became the McKinney Chamber’s secretary. She worked on numerous projects, including the Veterans Administration Hospital, Lavon Dam, and Ashburn General Hospital. In addition to these duties, she served as the secretary-treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce Managers and Secretary Association of East Texas which spanned 72 counties. She was also certified for 21 years of study in Chamber of Commerce management at East Texas Short Courses for Chamber Managers and Secretaries. She also contributed her time and seemingly boundless energy to the Heritage Guild. She would perform the laborious tasks of sanding, removing tacks, stripping, and staining in order to restore furniture and in keeping with her character Mrs. Reddell absorbed the material costs of these endeavors.

In addition to her community service, Mrs. Reddell raised a wonderful daughter, now Shirley Ann Reddell Cooper. Mrs. Reddell was married to her late husband, Eugene R. Reddell, for eight years before his tragic death. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Reddell has devoted a lifetime to her family, to her community, and to the preservation of history in Collin County. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of this great lady, Clara McKinney Reddell.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT-ELECT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, on March 18, in their second direct presidential election, voters in Taiwan elected Democratic Progressive Party candidate Chen Shui-bian as their

president. They did so despite China’s repeated warnings to the voters not to elect Chen, whose party platform calls for independence from China. Chen’s victory meant that the voters in Taiwan were brave enough to make their own decisions, clearly in defiance of Beijing’s demands. It also meant that the voters were seeking change, as they believed that Chen, a grass-roots politician could better reflect their wishes—particularly regarding relations between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland. Chen is attractive because he carries no baggage from the past, and may be the only one who can negotiate a future for Taiwan that will be acceptable to both Taiwan and China. This is a tremendous challenge that will require all of the leadership skills that President-elect Chen and Vice President-elect Annette Lu can muster.

I am hopeful that both President-elect Chen and Vice President-elect Lu will be able to ameliorate relations with the People’s Republic of China. Chen has already called for a “peace-summit” with Beijing and proposed to revise a provocative provision in the Democratic Progressive Party’s platform asserting independence. Chen’s efforts to extend himself to China must be commended. He will seek to decrease tension in the Taiwan Strait without sacrificing Taiwan’s dignity and sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to offer my best wishes to outgoing President Lee Teng-hui, who made the smooth and peaceful transfer from his party to the Democratic Progressive Party possible. Taiwan has always been a friend of the United States, and I encourage my colleagues in the United States Congress to give every support to Taiwan’s new administration. Taiwan’s stability and prosperity are always in the best interest of the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWARDS LIFE SCIENCES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Edwards Life Sciences as they begin operating as a new, independent publicly traded company.

From the company’s very beginning in the garage/laboratory of its founder, Miles “Lowell” Edwards, the name Edwards has been renowned for cardiovascular devices which have literally saved thousands of lives. In essence, the name Edwards is synonymous with “miracle” for over the past 40 years, as many lives have been saved due to the ingenious of Lowell Edwards.

When Edwards retired in Santa Ana, CA, he began to think of ways to invent an artificial

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